
SENATE BILL 6044

State of Washington

52nd Legislature

1992 Regular Session

By Senator Snyder

Read first time 01/13/92. Referred to Committee on Health & Long-Term Care.

1 AN ACT Relating to regional support networks; and reenacting and
2 amending RCW 71.24.300.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 71.24.300 and 1991 c 295 s 3, 1991 c 262 s 2, and 1991
5 c 29 s 3 are each reenacted and amended to read as follows:

6 A county authority or a group of county authorities whose combined
7 population is no less than (~~forty~~) twenty thousand may enter into a
8 joint operating agreement to form a regional support network. The
9 roles and responsibilities of county authorities shall be determined by
10 the terms of that agreement and the provisions of law. The state
11 mental health authority may not determine the roles and
12 responsibilities of county authorities as to each other under regional
13 support networks by rule, except to assure that all duties required of
14 regional support networks are assigned and that a single authority has

1 final responsibility for all available resources and performance under
2 the regional support network's contract with the secretary.

3 (1) Regional support networks shall within three months of
4 recognition submit an overall six-year operating and capital plan,
5 timeline, and budget and submit progress reports and an updated two-
6 year plan biennially thereafter, to assume within available resources
7 all of the following duties by July 1, 1995, instead of those presently
8 assigned to counties under RCW 71.24.045(1):

9 (a) Administer and provide for the availability of all resource
10 management services, residential services, and community support
11 services.

12 (b) Administer and provide for the availability of all
13 investigation, transportation, court-related, and other services
14 provided by the state or counties pursuant to chapter 71.05 RCW.

15 (c) By July 1, 1993, provide within the boundaries of each regional
16 support network evaluation and treatment services for at least eighty-
17 five percent of persons detained or committed for periods up to
18 seventeen days according to chapter 71.05 RCW. Regional support
19 networks with populations of less than one hundred fifty thousand may
20 contract to purchase evaluation and treatment services from other
21 networks. For regional support networks that are created after June
22 30, 1991, the requirements of (c) of this subsection must be met by
23 July 1, 1995.

24 (d) By July 1, 1993, administer a portion of funds appropriated by
25 the legislature to house mentally ill persons in state institutions
26 from counties within the boundaries of any regional support network,
27 with the exception of mentally ill offenders, and provide for the care
28 of all persons needing evaluation and treatment services for periods up
29 to seventeen days according to chapter 71.05 RCW in appropriate
30 residential services, which may include state institutions. The

1 regional support networks shall reimburse the state for use of state
2 institutions at a rate equal to that assumed by the legislature when
3 appropriating funds for such care at state institutions during the
4 biennium when reimbursement occurs. The duty of a state hospital to
5 accept persons for evaluation and treatment under chapter 71.05 RCW is
6 limited by the responsibilities assigned to regional support networks
7 under this section. For regional support networks that are created
8 after June 30, 1991, the requirements of (d) of this subsection must be
9 met by July 1, 1995.

10 (e) Administer and provide for the availability of all other mental
11 health services, which shall include patient counseling, day treatment,
12 consultation, education services, employment services as defined in RCW
13 71.24.035, and mental health services to children as provided in this
14 chapter.

15 (f) Establish standards and procedures for reviewing individual
16 service plans and determining when that person may be discharged from
17 resource management services.

18 (2) Regional support networks shall assume all duties assigned to
19 county authorities by this chapter and chapter 71.05 RCW.

20 (3) A regional support network may request that any state-owned
21 land, building, facility, or other capital asset which was ever
22 purchased, deeded, given, or placed in trust for the care of the
23 mentally ill and which is within the boundaries of a regional support
24 network be made available to support the operations of the regional
25 support network. State agencies managing such capital assets shall
26 give first priority to requests for their use pursuant to this chapter.

27 (4) Each regional support network shall appoint a mental health
28 advisory board which shall review and provide comments on plans and
29 policies developed under this chapter. The composition of the board
30 shall be broadly representative of the demographic character of the

1 region and the mentally ill persons served therein. Length of terms of
2 board members shall be determined by the regional support network.

3 (5) Regional support networks shall assume all duties specified in
4 their plans and joint operating agreements through biennial contractual
5 agreements with the secretary. Such contracts may include agreements
6 to provide periods of stable community living and work or other day
7 activities for specific chronically mentally ill persons who have
8 completed commitments at state hospitals on ninety-day or one hundred
9 eighty-day civil commitments or who have been residents at state
10 hospitals for no less than one hundred eighty days within the previous
11 year. Periods of stable community living may involve acute care in
12 local evaluation and treatment facilities but may not involve use of
13 state hospitals.

14 (6) Counties or groups of counties participating in a regional
15 support network are not subject to RCW 71.24.045(7). The office of
16 financial management shall consider information gathered in studies
17 required in this chapter and information about the experience of other
18 states to propose a mental health services administrative cost lid to
19 the 1991 legislature which shall include administrative costs of
20 licensed service providers, the state psychiatric hospitals and the
21 department.

22 (7) The first regional support network contract may include a pilot
23 project to: Establish standards and procedures for (a) making
24 referrals for comprehensive medical examinations and treatment programs
25 for those whose mental illness is caused or exacerbated by organic
26 disease, and (b) training staff in recognizing the relationship between
27 mental illness and organic disease.

28 (8) By November 1, 1991, and as part of each biennial plan
29 thereafter, each regional support network shall establish and submit to
30 the state, procedures and agreements to assure access to sufficient

1 additional local evaluation and treatment facilities to meet the
2 requirements of this chapter while reducing short-term admissions to
3 state hospitals. These shall be commitments to construct and operate,
4 or contract for the operation of, free standing evaluation and
5 treatment facilities or agreements with local evaluation and treatment
6 facilities which shall include (a) required admission and treatment for
7 short-term inpatient care for any person enrolled in community support
8 or residential services, (b) discharge planning procedures, (c)
9 limitations on admissions or transfers to state hospitals, (d) adequate
10 psychiatric supervision, (e) prospective payment methods, and (f)
11 contractual assurances regarding referrals to local evaluation and
12 treatment facilities from regional support networks.

13 (9) Regional support networks may receive technical assistance from
14 the housing trust fund and may identify and submit projects for housing
15 and housing support services to the housing trust fund established
16 under chapter 43.185 RCW. Projects identified or submitted under this
17 subsection must be fully integrated with the regional support network
18 six-year operating and capital plan, timeline, and budget required by
19 subsection (1) of this section.